

Public Notice

Public Notice No. 02-80

Date:

December 9, 2002

Nashville District

Application No. 200201192

Please address all comments to: Nashville District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch 3701 Bell Road, Nashville, TN 37214

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
AND
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
AND
STATE OF TENNESSEE

SUBJECT: Proposed Development Fill, Landward and Harbor Excavations, Bank Stabilization, and Floating Structures, Tennessee River Mile 463.4 to 464.2 L (Nickajack Lake), Hamilton County, Tennessee

TO ALL CONCERNED: The application described below has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Before a permit can be issued, certification must be provided by the State of Tennessee, Division of Water Pollution Control, pursuant to Section 401(a)(1) of the CWA, that applicable water quality standards will not be violated. By copy of this notice, the applicant hereby applies for the required certification.

APPLICANT: City of Chattanooga

Office of the Mayor Suite 100, City Hall

Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

LOCATION: Tennessee River Mile 463.4 to 464.2 Left Bank, Hamilton County

Tennessee

USGS: Chattanooga, Tennessee Quadrangle

Lon: 85-18-51 Lat: 35-03-22

DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to modify approximately 3500 feet of the City of Chattanooga's existing waterfront park along the south bank of the Tennessee River to accommodate future recreational activities and land based activities associated with the riverfront in downtown Chattanooga. The limits of the proposed project are from Mile 463.4 to Mile 464.2. Specifically, the project involves the following features from the west (downstream) to the east end (upstream) of the project area.

- **Area 1.** Excavation of the existing bank and construction of a new 20' wide concrete slab-on-grade ramp for "Duck" boats to access the river just west of the existing marina basin.
- **Area 2**. Reconfigure and enlarge the existing marina (riverward of existing normal pool shoreline) and deepen entire marina basin to EL +626. This includes removal of the existing stone breakwater and dredging approximately 8,470 cubic yards ($\sim 5,950$ square yards) to provide safe navigational passage into the marina harbor limits. Additionally, approximately 1,730 cubic yards of fill (~ 190 square yards) would be placed in the basin to stabilize the existing riprap banks.
- **Area 3**. Utilize bio-engineered slope protection on the existing riprap revetment surrounding the marina basin to improve aesthetics and stabilize the bank. [No Permit Required (NPR)]
- **Area 4**. Relocate existing 300 feet long by 15 feet wide concrete floating dock from Ross' Landing wharf area to just east of marina basin. The existing steel pipe guide piles would not be retained and new ones are proposed. Top elevation of the pilings would be 662.0.
- **Area 5**. Demolish existing concrete slab-on-grade river walk from approximately 450 feet west of the Oligati Bridge to approximately 550 feet east and install new 20' wide concrete slab-on-grade walkway. The existing riprap along this section above the existing waterline (normal pool) would be removed and reinstalled after regrading of the area between the waterline and the new river walk. The slope behind the proposed walkway would utilize bio-engineered slope protection to improve aesthetics and stabilize the bank. (NPR)
- **Area 6**. The existing *M/V SOUTHERN BELLE* moorings and operations, including support barges would be re-located to just east of the Oligati Bridge. The support barges are 31' wide by 273' long with a 12' wide by 50' long ADA compliant walkway. An emergency walkway 6' wide by 62.5' long would be located at the west end of the support barges.
- **Area 7**. Approximately 500 feet of a 20' wide section of the river walk will be installed as a pile supported structure beginning about 550 feet east of the Oligati Bridge. About 2,650 cubic yards of material (~ 1,570 square yards) will be dredged (riverward of normal pool shoreline) to allow for small recreational vessels to dock along this section of the river walk. Base elevation of the dredged area would be 626.0. Riprap will be placed under the pile supported structure for bank stabilization and potential shaded aquatic habitat.
- **Area 8**. Excavate existing bank to create a riverside amphitheater and construct a 35' wide pier extending approximately 75 feet riverward of the existing normal pool shoreline. The pier would provide an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) barrier-free accessible route from the upper park elevation to the proposed commercial vessel floating dock at the end. Additionally, it would provide pedestrians with access to the river above the 100-year flood elevation.

Area 9. Construct a 340' x 20' heavy-duty concrete floating dock for existing and proposed commercial vessels that moor at the existing floating dock at Ross' Landing wharf area. The dock would be supported by five steel pile mooring structures. The top elevation of the pilings would be 662.0

Area 10. Construct approximately 650 feet of 20' wide section of the river walk in the vicinity of Ross's Landing wharf area. Approximately 29,910 cubic yards of fill material (~ 6,530 square yards) will be placed behind the walk and riverward of the existing normal pool shoreline. The proposed river walk would be installed as a pile-supported structure with riprap under the pile-supported structure for bank stabilization and provide shaded aquatic habitat. Approximately 20 cubic yards of material (~ 30 square yards) would be dredged in this area riverward of the normal pool shoreline.

Area 11. A 570' x 10' floating dock would be constructed and installed between the Market St. and Walnut St. bridges. The floating dock would be supported by steel guide piles for recreational vessels to moor against and would provide a pedestrian walkway along the river's edge between the bridges.

Area 12. Additionally, approximately 2,750 square yards landward excavation of the existing shoreline would occur in this area.

Plans of the proposed work are attached to this notice (Notice: for customers viewing this public notice in electronic format, a select number of drawings are attached. If you wish to receive a full set of drawings for this notice, please call Carl Olsen at 615-369-7513).

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA (40 CFR Part 230). A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental

effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

An Environmental Assessment will be prepared by this office prior to a final decision concerning issuance or denial of the requested Department of the Army Permit.

The City of Chattanooga is communicating with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the permitting agencies to develop a Memorandum of Agreement to address potential project effects on historic properties. A Phase I Archaeological Survey of the 21st Century Waterfront project area has been completed by the applicant and has been forwarded to the SHPO for their review. Copies of this notice are being sent to the office of the State Historic Preservation Officer and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service - Atlanta.

Based on available information, the proposed work will not destroy or endanger any Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats, as identified under the Endangered Species Act, and, therefore, initiation of formal consultation procedures with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not planned at this time.

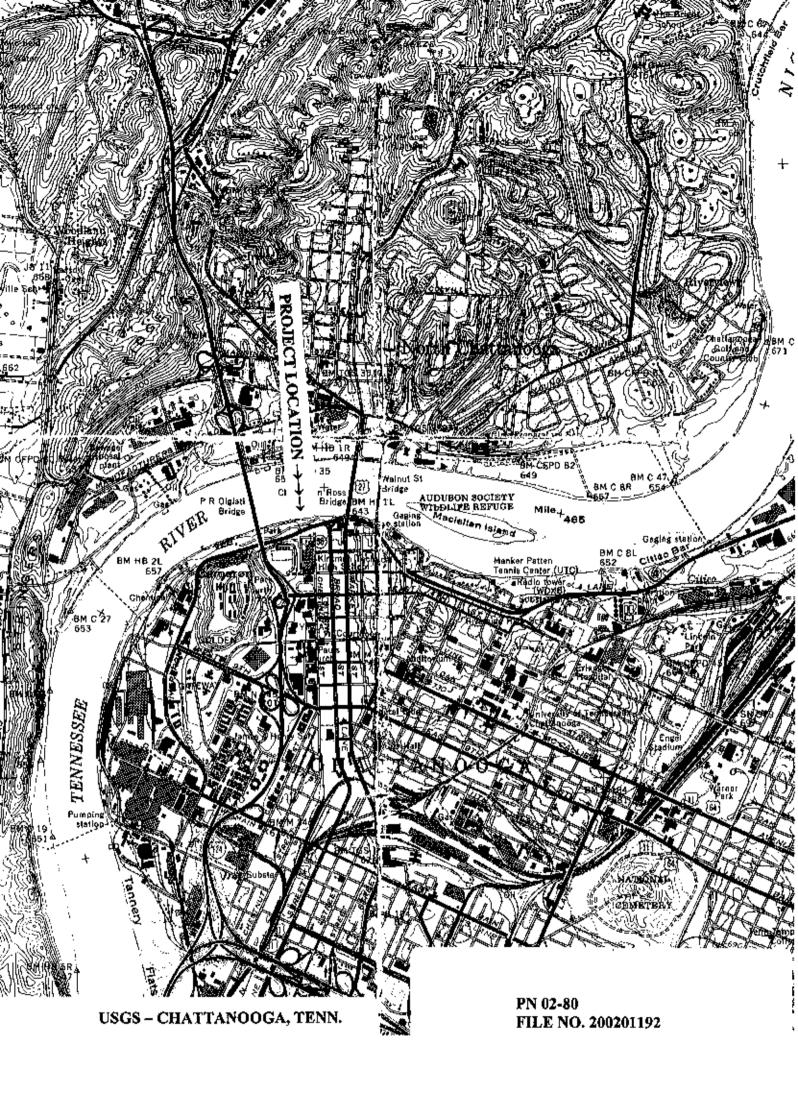
Other Federal, State, and/or local approvals required for the proposed work are as follows:

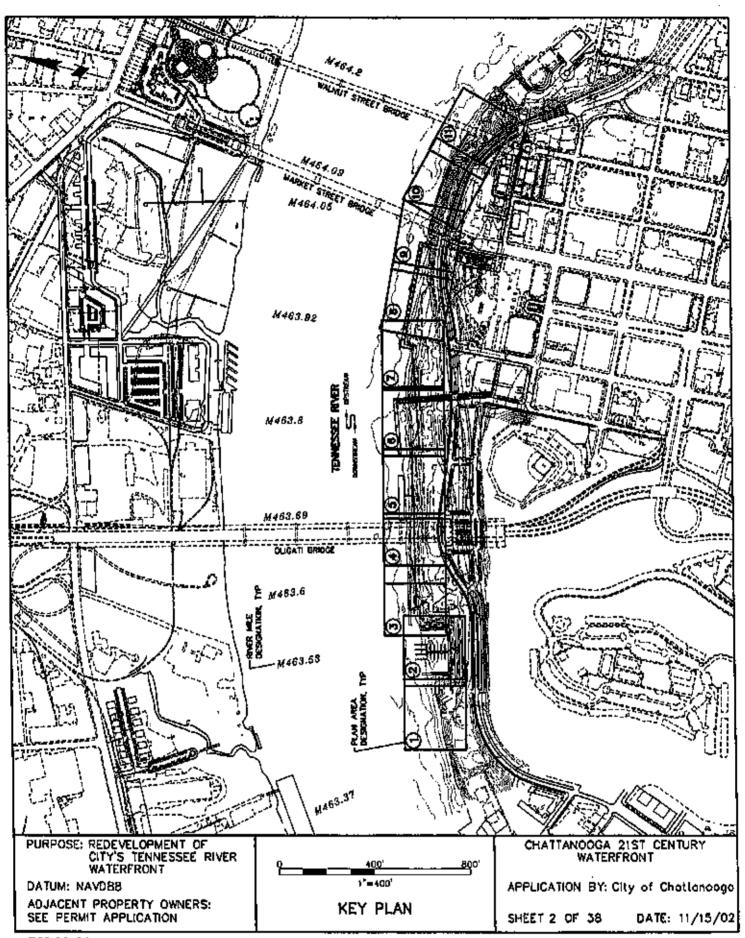
- a. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) approval under Section 26a of the TVA Act. In addition to other provisions of its approval, TVA would require the applicant to employ best management practices to control erosion and sedimentation, as necessary, to prevent adverse aquatic impacts.
- b. Water quality certification from the State of Tennessee in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Written statements received in this office on or before January 9, 2003, will become a part of the record and will be considered in the determination. Any response to this notice should be directed to the Regulatory Branch, Attention: Carl R. Olsen, at the above address, telephone (615) 369-7513. It is not necessary to comment separately to TVA since copies of all comments will be sent to that agency and will become part of its record on the proposal. However, if comments are sent to TVA, they should be mailed to:

Mr. Rick Lance Tennessee Valley Authority CHICKAMAUGA/NICKAJACK WATERSHED TEAM 1101 Market Street (PSC 1E), Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801





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